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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 073850
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----------096771 230817Z /11
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2327

S E C R E T STATE 073850

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT USNATO 2696 ACTION SECSTATE MAR 15.

QUOTE: S E C R E T USNATO 02696

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS SECDEF

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MNUC
SUBJECT: SYG SUGGESTIONS ON HANDLING ERW IN NAC

REF: USNATO 2381

1. DURING COURSE OF MEETING ON OTHER SUBJECTS TODAY, CONVERSATION WITH SYG LUNS TURNED TO ERW AND FORTHCOMING NAC SESSIONS ON THAT ISSUE. LUNS EMPHASIZED STRONGLY THAT HE WANTED TO BE HELPFUL TO US IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY. HE WOULD PUSH DEBATE ALONG AS WELL AS HE COULD AND WOULD BE AS "SUBJECTIVE" AS POSSIBLE IN HIS SUMMING UP
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OF THE DISCUSSION. LUNS, WHO HAS BEEN PUBLICLY UNHAPPY FOR SOME TIME OVER DUTCH HANDLING OF ERW ISSUE, COMMENTED THAT IN LIGHT OF HINDSIGHT HE THOUGHT PERHAPS USG HAD BEEN TOO GENEROUS TOWARDS ITS ALLIES IN TREATING THIS ISSUE. MANY ALLIES HAD PERHAPS GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY HAD A VETO OVER ERW DEVELOPMENT DECISION. NOW THAT WE FACE DIFFICULT MEETINGS AS WE TRY TO DRIVE TOWARD

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DECISION ON THIS MATTER, HE SUGGESTED THE FOLLOWING POINTS THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE US TO EMPHASIZE IN OUR NAC PRESENTATION: (A) US OF COURSE WAS EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN VIEWS OF ITS ALLIES ON THIS IMPORTANT MATTER AND WELCOMED THEIR COMMENTS AND REACTIONS, (B) THAT US WOULD UNDERSTANDABLY GIVE GREATEST ATTENTION TO VIEWS OF THOSE ON WHOSE TERRITORY THE WEAPON MIGHT BE DEPLOYED, (C) THAT US MUST BE COMPLETELY FREE TO DEVELOP ERW AND TO DEPLOY IT IN TWO YEARS'TIME, AND (D) THAT ERW COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED SIMPLY AS A BARGAINING CHIP IN DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS. IT HAD A BROADER IMPORTANCE THAN THAT.

2. LUNS STRESSED HIS CONVICTION THAT ALLIED GOVERNMENTS ARE SYMPATHETIC TO PRODUCTION OF ERW. WHATEVER THEY SAY OR DON'T SAY AT NAC, THEY WILL BASICALLY WELCOME US DECISION TO PROCEED. HE EXRESSED DISTRESS OVER CONFUSION WHICH EXISTS IN EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPINION AND DEPLORED THE PERSISTENT SOVIET CAMPAIGN AGAINST ERW WHICH HAS HAD SUCH EFFECT ON WELL-MEANING PEOPLE OF MANY COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY IN THE NETHERLANDS IN HIS VIEW.
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